

I support media diversity and appreciate the availability of this format. I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. I have a degree in journalism from Rutgers University and worked on newspapers in New Jersey, Ohio and Georgia for many years.

In its goals to promote competition, diversity and localism in today's media market, I strongly believe that the FCC should retain all of the current media ownership rules now in question. These rules serve the public interest by limiting the market power of already huge companies in the broadcast industry.

I do not believe that the studies commissioned by the FCC accurately demonstrate the negative affects media deregulation and consolidation have had on media diversity. While there may be indeed be more sources of media than ever before, the spectrum of views presented have become more limited.

The right to carry on informed debate and discussion of current events is part of the founding philosophy of our nation. Our forefathers believed that democracy was best served by a diverse marketplace of ideas. If the FCC allows our media outlets to merge, our ability to have open, informed discussion with a wide variety of viewpoints will be compromised.

The public interest will best be served by preserving media ownership rules in question in this proceeding. With so many persons relying completely on television news only, it is important that varied sources be available and that radio stations and newspapers be encouraged to stay in business rather than consolidating. So many two-paper cities are now one-paper cities. The country needs more news outlets. I do not think the public fully comprehends what action the FCC is considering or who its members are and how they are appointed and what their qualifications are.

In addition to the official hearing on this matter in Richmond, VA, I strongly urge the FCC to hold additional hearings elsewhere around the nation to solicit the widest possible participation from the public which will be the most directly affected by the outcomes of these decisions. I think it is important for the FCC to not only consider the points of view of those with a financial interest in this issue, but also those with a social or civic interest.

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, it is incumbent on the Commission to take the time to review these issues more thoroughly and allow the American people to have a meaningful say in the process.

Thank you for this opportunity to add my thoughts.

Sincerely,

Gladys G. Lippincott  
5020 Brywill Circle  
Sarasota, Florida 34234  
May 30, 2003

Gladys G. Lippincott

